

December 23, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - This week, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) nominated 22 students from the 24th Congressional District for attendance at one of the four U.S. Military Academies.

"I am so impressed with the quality of character and academic excellence that these nominees have shown throughout their lives," **said Arcuri, who hosted a ceremony earlier this week at the Utica Center for Development to present nominees with Congressional certificates and a food drive for local veterans and their families.**

"One of the most enjoyable parts of being a Congressman is nominating students who have such bright futures and will represent our nation with class and dignity. I am proud to nominate these qualified students and look forward to following their bright futures."

Appointments to all four U.S. Military Service Academies are chosen from nominations received from Members of Congress throughout the country. Arcuri's Military Academy Committee, which is made up of local veterans and leaders, interviewed and recommended candidates in the 24th Congressional District for nomination. Final appointments are determined by the U.S. Military Service Academies, selecting from a nationwide pool of nominees. In 2008, nine students nominated by Arcuri received appointments to one of the four U.S. Service Academies.

The following students have been nominated by Arcuri to one of the four U.S. Military Service Academies:

United States Air Force Academy

Mr. Tommy Appleton, son of David and Suzanne Appleton of Utica, NY is a senior at Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School. His extracurricular activities and awards include Naval Junior ROTC, Football, Baseball, Track, National Honor Society, as well as numerous leadership and academic awards and local volunteer work.

Mr. Anthony J. Cangelo, son of Rob and Tracy Stuber of New Hartford, NY is a senior at New Hartford Senior High School. His extracurricular activities and awards include swimming, diving, track, Boy Scouts (Eagle Scout) and employment at several local businesses.

United States Merchant Marine Academy

Mr. Christopher W. Michaels, son of Wayne and Barbara Michaels of Mount Vision, NY is a senior at Cooperstown Central School. His extracurricular activities and awards include football, wrestling, weight training, and employment at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Mr. Allen S. Wikstrom, son of Stephen and Ellen Wikstrom of Aurora, NY, is a senior at

Southern Cayuga High School. His extracurricular activities include swimming, his work as a life guard and as a member of the local volunteer fire department.

United States Military Academy

Mr. Patrick Bankich, son of Patrick and Nancy Jo Bankick of Plymouth, NY, is a senior at Norwich High School. His extracurricular activities and awards include cross country, track, jazz band, marching band, student government (Class President), National Honor Society, Boys State and as a local volunteer at the United Way and Food Pantry

Ms. Stephanie M. Birkhimer, daughter of Mr. Karl Birkhimer of St. Augustine, FL and Ms. Susan LaPlante of Oneonta, NY, is a senior at Oneonta High School. Her extracurricular activities and awards include volleyball, track, National Honor Society, writing for the school newspaper, snowboarding and horseback riding.

Ms. Amy J. Sanchez, daughter of Richard and Patricia Sanchez of Weedsport, NY, is a senior at Weedsport Junior/Senior High School. Her extracurricular activities and awards include National Honor Society, student government (class president), field hockey, band, chorus, book club, track and the United States Military Academy Leadership Program.

Mr. Brandon S. Zakris, son of Mr. Alfred Zakris of Yorkville, NY and Ms. Christine Zakris of Westmoreland, NY

, is a senior at Westmoreland High School. His extracurricular activities and awards include soccer, 4-H, math club, work as a life guard, volunteering at Bible Baptist Church and Key Club.

Mr. Justen J. Yoder, son of Mr. David Yoder of South Plymouth, NY and Ms. Lora Yoder of Schuylkill Haven, PA is a senior at Valley Heights Christian Academy. His extracurricular awards and activities include Boy's State, basketball, soccer, choir, Drama Club, National Christian Honor Society, and working over 100+ hours of community service.

Mr. Anthony M. Cadieux, son of Anthony and Marion Cadieux of New Hartford, NY is currently enrolled in Le Moyne College in Syracuse. Mr. Cadieux also received the Congressman's nomination in 2008 and has decided to re-apply to the U.S. Military Academy this year. His extracurricular awards and activities include playing hockey for the Syracuse Stars and substantial volunteer work.

Mr. Cody Huxtable Dye, son of David and Colleen Dye of Richfield Springs, NY is currently enrolled at the Marion Military Institute in Marion, AL. Mr. Dye also received the Congressman's nomination in 2008 and has decided to re-apply to the U.S. Military Academy this year. His extracurricular awards and activities include wrestling, cross country, golf, Outward Bound, Millers Mills Grange and the American Wilderness Leadership School.

Mr. Paul McBride, son of Mr. William McBride of Seneca Falls, NY. Mr. McBride is currently enrolled at Cayuga Community College and also received the Congressman's nomination in 2008 and has decided to re-apply to the U.S. Military Academy this year. His extracurricular activities and awards include National Honor Society, Boys State, President-Model United Nations Club, football and his work as a tutor.

Ms. Jessica Catherine Persoon, daughter of Jack and Jenifer Persoon of Interlaken, NY is currently enrolled at the University of Scranton. Ms. Persoon also received the Congressman's nomination in 2008 and has decided to re-apply to the U.S. Military Academy this year. Her extracurricular activities and awards include National Honor Society, soccer, track and field and she has received the President's Gold Award for Excellence 2007.

United States Naval Academy

Ms. Sarah C. Derrane, daughter of James and Angela Derrane of Utica, NY is a senior at New Hartford Senior High School. Her extracurricular activities and awards include her volunteer work at the New Hartford Senior Center, running the Utica Boilermaker, Vacation Bible School, Mohawk Valley Frasers Bagpipe Band, track, marching band, bowling, swimming and taekwondo.

Mr. Brian M. Hamlin, son of John and Irina Hamlin of New Hartford, NY is a senior at New Hartford Senior High School. His extracurricular activities and awards include lacrosse, cross country, mock trial, being certified scuba diver, martial arts, and working as a volunteer for Hope House.

Mr. Michael P. McCormick, son of Kevin and Rosemary McCormick of Utica, NY is a senior at Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School. His extracurricular awards and activities include Naval Junior ROTC, US Naval Academy Summer Seminar, National Honor Society, football, baseball, Naval Station-Newport, Rhode Island Leadership Academy/Sail Training and local volunteer work.

Mr. Samuel J. Phaneuf, son of Joseph and Janine Phaneuf of Old Forge, NY is a senior at the Town of Webb Unified School District. His extracurricular awards and activities include soccer, cross country running, cross country skiing, National Honor Society, musicals, Key Club and his

work as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and Relay for Life.

Mr. Abraham Jordan, son of Roger and Dawn Jordan of Weedsport, NY is a senior at Weedsport Junior/Senior High School. His extracurricular awards and activities include football, basketball, track, National Honor Society and Boy's State.

Andrew M. Malia, son of Michael and Melinda Malia of Owego, NY is a senior at Owego Free Academy. His extracurricular awards and activities include soccer, swimming, track, Boy's State, National Honor Society and various church activities.

Mr. Christopher T. Bomba, II, son of Chris and Lori Bomba of Unadilla, NY is a senior at Unatego Junior/Senior High School. His extracurricular activities and awards include Boy Scouts (Eagle Scouts), Boy's State, football, National Honor Society, track, debate team, Relay for Life and the Crop Walk.

Mr. Paul James Zimmerman, son of James and Joelle Zimmerman of Homer, NY is currently enrolled at the Naval Academy Preparatory School. Mr. Zimmerman also received the Congressman's nomination in 2008 and has decided to re-apply to the U.S. Naval Academy this year. His activities and accomplishments include National Honor Society, hockey, soccer, lacrosse, Jazz Band and substantial volunteer work.

Ms. Erica Lynn Romer, daughter of Steve and Nancy Romer of Middleville, NY is a graduate of West Canada Valley High School and is currently enrolled at the Naval Academy Preparatory School. Ms. Romer also received the Congressman's nomination in 2008 and has decided to re-apply to the U.S. Naval Academy this year. Her extracurricular awards and activities include National Honor Society, track and field, soccer, band and Drama Club.

Mr. Arron Michael Canarelli, son of Mr. Raymond Canarelli and Ms. Tina Carey both from New Hartford, NY is a graduate of New Hartford High School. He is currently enrolled at Norwich University and also received the Congressman's nomination in 2008 and has decided to re-apply to the U.S. Naval Academy this year. His extracurricular activities and accomplishments include hockey, lacrosse, football, Concert and Jazz Band.

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